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Message Text

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40
ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-11 AID-20 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 OMB-01 EB-11 FEA-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 COME-00 INT-08

AGR-20 SPM-01 H-03 SAB-01 SAM-01 /163 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RDLORTON:MMK
APPROVED BY NEA:AATHERTON
EA/PRCM:AROMBERG (SUBS)
NEA/INS:DKUX
ASIA/SA:HTHOMAS (SUBS)
NEA:SSOBER
---------- 046901
R 241527Z APR 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083334

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NP, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR KHANAL'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY DESIGNATE ATHERTON

SUMMARY: DURING COURTESY CALL BY NEPALESE AMBASSADOR KHANAL APRIL 22, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-DESIGNATE ATHERTON NOTED GOOD STATE OF US/NEPAL RELATIONS, AGREED WITH KHANAL'S ASSESSMENT OF IMPROVING INDO/US RELATIONS, TOUCHED ON US/CHINA RELATIONS CITED NEPAL'S MAINTENANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT AS HELPFUL TO NEPAL'S UNEF PARTICIPATION, AND GAVE SHORT BRIEFING ON MIDEAST. END SUMMARY.

1. ATHERTON EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF THAT US/NEPAL RELATIONS WERE IN "VERY GOOD SHAPE." KHANAL SAID GON WAS VERY
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HAPPY WITH STATE OF RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

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BUT THEN NOTED SEVERE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF ENERGY CRISIS
ON NEPALESE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. HE ADDED THAT FONSEC
KHATRI WAS PRESENTLY IN MIDEAST SEEKING ALTERNATIVE
PETROLEUM SUPPLIES.

2. KHANAL SAID TENSION WHICH HAD EXISTED IN SUBCONTINENT
SEEMED TO BE SUBSIDING AFTER NEW DELHI TRIPARTITE
AGREEMENT AND WONDERED WHETHER HIS IMPRESSION OF IMPROVING
INDO/US RELATIONS WAS ACCURATE. ATHERTON AGREED IT WAS
AND ADDED WE WERE PLEASED BY TRENDS WHICH INDICATED NEW

RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE ON SOUNDER BASIS OF MATURITY AND
EQUALITY. HE CITED RUPEE AGREEMENT AS ONE OF FIRST
DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP AND NOTED SOME
OF THESE RUPEES WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR USE BY USAID IN
NEPAL.

3. KHANAL SAID GON UNDERSTOOD NEW EMPHASIS OF US AID
ON AGRICULTURE AND POPULATION, FOR EXAMPLE, AND WAS IN
GENERAL AGREEMENT. HE HOPED, HOWEVER, USG WOULD NOT
INTERPRET AGRICULTURAL NEEDS TOO NARROWLY BECAUSE NEPAL
ALSO NEEDED RURAL ROADS TO MAKE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
MEANINGFUL. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO INFORM THE
ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS OF NEPAL'S ADDITIONAL NEEDS
IN THESE AREAS.

4. KHANAL EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER REPORTS WHICH
INDICATED TO HIM THAT INTERNAL CAMPAIGN IN CHINA HAD LED
TO DIMUNITION OF CHOU EN-LAI'S POWER AND ASSUMPTION OF
SOME DUTIES BY VICE PREMIER TENG. ATHERTON COMMENTED
THAT THE EVENTS THERE SEEMED VERY MUCH INTERNAL AND HAD
NOT APPEARED TO HAVE AFFECTED US/CHINA RELATIONS.

5. ATHERTON EXPRESSED US PLEASURE AT NEPALESE UNEF
PARTICIPATION AND OUR BELIEF THAT NEPAL'S MAINTENANCE
OF RELATIONS WITH BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT FACILITATED
ITS ROLE IN MIDEAST. KHANAL REPLIED GON TRIED TO MAINTAIN
GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH PARTIES, BELIEVING ISRAEL
SHOULD SURVIVE AS A STATE, BUT NOT ADD TERRITORY AT
EXPENSE OF NEIGHBORS. HE THOUGHT ISRAELIS COULD HAVE
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BEEN MORE IMAGINATIVE IN SEEKING PEACE BETWEEN 67 AND 73
WARS. ATHERTON DESCRIBED ARABS AS INCREASINGLY WILLING
RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF ISRAEL EXIST AND SAID 73 WAR RESTORED
SOME POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL BALANCE INTO THE
SITUATION. HE NOTED NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY
BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL THROUGH SECRETARY AND SAID THEIR
AIM WAS FIRST TO GET A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AFTER
WHICH THE SYRIANS HAD INDICATED THEY WOULD BECOME FULL

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PARTICIPANTS IN GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE. KISSINGER

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NNN

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